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Letter dated 29 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the attached letter from Mr. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, dated 26 January 2009, and the attachment entitled "Progress report by the Government of National Unity of the Republic of the Sudan to the Commission of the African Union for the period October 2008 to January 2009".

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Joyce C. **Kafanabo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania
to the United Nations Representative of the current
Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 29 January 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: French]

26 January 2009

I have the honour to refer to the common efforts of the African Union and the United Nations with regard to the situation in the Sudan and, pursuant to the decision taken at the ministerial meeting of the Peace and Security Council held at Addis Ababa on 21 July 2008, to transmit herewith the second interim report submitted to the African Union by the Government of the Sudan, covering the period October 2008 to January 2009. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the United Nations Security Council.

As noted in our exchanges of views, the year 2009 could in many regards have a lasting impact on the evolution of the Sudan, in terms of the nature and scope of the potential outcomes of the peace and democratization processes taking place in that country. In that spirit, the African Union calls on the United Nations Security Council to invest greater authority in our joint actions, so as to create the conditions for the success of those processes.

(*Signed*) Jean **Ping**

Enclosure

Progress report by the Government of National Unity of the Republic of the Sudan to the African Union Commission

For the period October 2008 to January 2009

(In compliance with the African Union Peace and Security Council communiqué of its 142nd meeting of 21 July 2008)

1. The political process in general

1.1 A delegation of the steering committee of the Arab initiative for solution of the Darfur issue visited the Sudan in October 2008. During the visit the members of the delegation proposed to Sudanese officials a plan for solving the Darfur issue. The plan reaffirmed the principles of justice, the integrity of Sudanese territories and the supremacy of the interest of its people.

1.2 The Government of National Unity has lauded the outcomes of the last meeting of the ministerial committee held in Doha on 14 January 2009.

2. Sudan People's Initiative

2.1 As declared by H.E. President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to revitalize the Darfur peace process, the Sudan People's Initiative is now under way.

2.2 The Initiative was launched in Khartoum in the presence of a number of high-level dignitaries from Egypt, Eritrea and Qatar; in addition to the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and representatives from the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), as well as the United Nations-African Union Joint Mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassolé.

2.3 Members of the diplomatic community in Khartoum including the United Nations, UNMIS and UNAMID also attended the occasion.

2.4 The participants included representatives from all walks of life and political dispensation, including all the Sudanese political parties, representatives of civil society including women, a number of distinguished academics and public figures as well as representatives of all the internally displaced person camps in Darfur.

2.5 The participants decided to form the following seven committees:

Solutions and Recommendations Committee headed by H.E. Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha.

Committee for Justice, Peace, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, headed by H.E. Mini Arko Minawi, Senior Assistant to the President.

Committee for Development and Services, headed by Mr. Pagan Amom, Secretary General of SPLM.

Committee for the Consideration of Eternal Factors, headed by Dr. Abdelnabi Ali Ahmed, Secretary General of the National Umma Party.

Committee on Security issues, headed by Major General (Retired) Osman Abdallah.

Committee for the Internally Displaced Persons Voluntary Repatriation, headed by Professor Abdallah Ahmed Abdallah.

Media Committee, headed by H.E. Dr. Jalal Yousif Al-Digair, Minister of Industry.

The aforementioned committees have already finalized their work and submitted their reports and issued their recommendations, which have been approved by the political leadership of the country.

The recommendations include a call for cessation of hostilities in all forms and the declaration of a monitored ceasefire. The purpose of the Initiative is to explore the opinions of the Sudanese people on best options for the solution of the Darfur problem, notwithstanding that the Initiative's outcome will be reflected during the anticipated peace talks within the framework of the Arab-African Initiative headed by Qatar, the African Union and the Arab League, with the participation of the United Nations-African Union Joint Mediator and a number of Arab and African countries.

3. Implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement

3.1 An agreement has been reached between the Vice President of the Republic of the Sudan, Ali Osman Taha, and the Senior Assistant to the President, Mini Arko Minawi, in September 2008. The agreement included a matrix, which is considered to be an agreed road map for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement.

4. Implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement

4.1 On power sharing, a number of acts have been ratified by the Council of Ministers and others by the National Assembly (Parliament). These Acts are:

Political Parties Act.

The Council for Development and Promotion of National Languages Act.

Land Commission Act.

Human Rights Commission Act.

Amendment of Criminal Procedures Act.

4.2 The National Assembly adopted the list of the candidates of the Presidency for the membership of the Council for Political Parties Affairs and the National Electoral Commission.

4.3 The two parties (National Congress Party and SPLM) work through a joint committee to present a unified draft of the Referendum Act to be submitted to the National Commission for Constitutional Review.

5. Deployment of UNAMID

5.1 The Government of National Unity has agreed with the United Nations and the African Union on the establishment of a tripartite mechanism to ensure more coordination between the three parties in facilitating the deployment of UNAMID. This mechanism has held three meetings so far.

Directives have been issued to the Ministry of Defence and the Civil Aviation Authority to take the necessary action to ensure that all aircraft flying in Darfur airspace are distinct from the white colour of UNAMID aircraft. According to these directives all aircraft not abiding by the colour code shall not be permitted to operate in Darfur after 25 October 2008.

A liaison office led by a Major General has been established in El-Fasher and the three sectors to ensure that decisions taken at the national level are implemented locally.

Directives have been issued to competent authorities to ensure that the three main Darfur airports are operational from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sudanese civil aviation technicians convene regular meetings with UNAMID technicians to follow up implementation of the upgrading plan for Darfur airports submitted by the Sudanese side.

The Sudanese side has prepared the rehabilitation plan for the railway and nominated its representative in the joint working group on this issue with UNAMID.

The Government of National Unity has addressed both ICAO and UNAMID, inviting them to participate in the investigation of the helicopter crash of 29 September 2008, which was operated by a UNAMID contractor.

Instructions were issued to ensure that Customs inspection is carried out at one entry point only.

5.2 Most air operations issues have been included in a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Sudan and UNAMID. The two parties signed this memorandum of understanding during the 3rd meeting of the Tripartite Committee held in Addis Ababa on 19 January 2009.

5.3 The Government of National Unity has authorized UNAMID to fly the IL-76 aircraft three times a week into the new airport of El-Geneina.

5.4 UNAMID is already authorized to conduct air operations from sunrise to sunset in the three main airports of Darfur.

5.5 In the context of a potentially degrading security situation, the Government of National Unity has strongly reiterated its assurances and commitment to protect UNAMID, United Nations and other affiliated humanitarian personnel.

5.6 Responding to an earlier request from UNAMID, the Government of National Unity has agreed to provide police forces to protect the UNAMID camps in Nyala and El-Geneina, similar to the measure applied in El-Fasher.

5.7 It is obvious that the Government of National Unity has fulfilled its part with regard to the deployment of UNAMID. However, some commitments await fulfilment on the part of the international community, especially in relation to the financial aspects, the logistical requirements of the operation, and the heavy support package.

6. Humanitarian situation

6.1 The March 2007 joint communiqué signed by the Government of National Unity and the United Nations covered a number of areas where the

Government of National Unity agreed to facilitate approval in a speedy manner, by committing itself to a time frame. These were related to providing entry visas, work permits, travel notifications, customs exemption and speedy recruitment procedures for national staff, etc.

6.2 As per the joint communiqué, a high-level committee has been established to oversee the implementation of the various provisions related to the joint communiqué.

6.3 Realizing the difficulties experienced by humanitarian organizations, particularly international non-governmental organizations in following a number of bureaucratic procedures, the Government of National Unity established the Joint Procedure Centre in 2006. The objective was to expedite procedures by bringing together, under one roof, various departments and ministries (about 18 of them) that deal with various aspects of NGO work in the Sudan.

6.4 In line with the spirit of cooperation and partnership, the Joint Procedure Centre established a tripartite joint technical committee in November 2006, comprising representatives of the Government of National Unity, the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations.

6.5 A general directory of procedures has been published containing all procedures related to the facilitation of NGO humanitarian work in the Sudan with specific provisions on Darfur.

6.6 The Minister for Humanitarian Affairs issued a decision to extend the joint communiqué for a period of one year.

7. Human rights

7.1 Establishment of the Joint Forum on Human Rights in Darfur between the Government of National Unity and UNAMID in November 2008.

7.2 Establishment of Juvenile Courts in all Sudanese States.

8. The Sudan-Chad relations

8.1 The 5th meeting of the Foreign Ministers contact group on normalization of Sudanese-Chadian relations was held in Asmara, on 10 September 2008. The meeting discussed resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. According to the final communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, the Government of National Unity reaffirmed its readiness to resume diplomatic relations with Chad, which accepted the restoration of bilateral relations with the Sudan. The two countries further agreed to exchange ambassadors before the 6th meeting of the contact group, to be held in N'Djamena. Also Libya and the Republic of the Congo are charged to coordinate the exchange of ambassadors between the two countries. The meeting agreed to take the minutes of the experts on defence, security and intelligence as guidelines for the provision of budget and logistics and the organization of command centres for the observer force to be deployed along the Chadian-Sudanese borders.

8.2 As a result of the continued and constructive efforts, diplomatic relations between the two countries have been resumed.

9. Combating impunity

9.1 The Prosecutor General for Darfur crimes together with members of the Investigation Committee conducted five visits to Darfur during which they listened to witnesses and continued investigations on incidents in Western Darfur.